

Appl. No. 09/876,359
Atty Docket No. CM2381
Response dated July 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated April 2, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating indoor household surfaces comprising:
applying to all or part of the indoor household surface a first coating composition to form a durable protective layer, wherein the coating composition is essentially free of pigment, and,
subsequently removing any soil or stain from said coated surface by applying to the coated surface a cleaning treatment or composition.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the coating composition comprises a fluorinated compound.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)

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13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Original) A method of cleaning an indoor household surface, wherein the surface has been treated by a method of Claim 1 wherein said cleaning composition comprises at least one of a solvent and a surfactant.
21. (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the cleaning composition comprises a fluorinated compound.
22. (Original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the fluorinated compound is a (per)fluoropolyether (non-functionalized) of one of the general formulas: (I) $\text{CF}_3\text{O}-(\text{CF}_2-\text{C}_2\text{F}_4-\text{O})_n-(\text{CF}_2\text{O})_m-\text{CF}_3-$; (II) $\text{HF}_2\text{C}-\text{O}-[(\text{CF}_2-\text{CF}_2-\text{O})_n-(\text{CF}_2-\text{O})_m]-\text{CF}_2\text{H}$; hydrogenated forms thereof.
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)

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28. (Canceled)
29. (Canceled)
30. (Canceled)
31. (New) The method of Claim 2 wherein the fluorinated compound is a fluorinated polymer.
32. (New) The method of Claim 2 wherein the fluorinated compound is a perfluorinated polymer.
33. (New) The method of Claim 2 wherein the fluorinated compound is functionalized to form a covalent or non-covalent bond with the material of the surface to be treated.
34. (New) The method according to Claim 33 wherein the fluorinated compound comprises one or more functional groups selected from the group consisting of: silane, phosphate, carboxylate, alkylamide, polyether, sulphonate, sulphate and amine.
35. (New) The method of Claim 2 wherein the fluorinated compound has an average molecular weight of between 400 and 4,000.
36. (New) The method of Claim 2 wherein the fluorinated compound is selected from the group consisting of fluorinated polymers having the formula: $X-CF_2-(O-C_2F_4)_n-(OCF_2)_m-OCF_2-Y$; $Cl-(C_3F_6O)_n-CF_2-X$; $Cl-(C_2F_4O)_n-CF_2-X$; or $X-CF_2-(O-C_2F_4)_n-(OC_2F_6)_p-(OCF_2)_m-OCF_2-Y$, and (partially) hydrogenated forms thereof, wherein m, n and p represent, independently, integer numbers, including 0, m+n or m+n+p being different from 0, wherein X and Y are, independently, CF_3 or an hydrogenated form thereof, a hydrogen atom, a chlorine atom, or a functional group or a different polymer sequence.
37. (New) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises one or both of a fluorosurfactant and a solvent.
38. (New) The method of Claim 37 wherein the fluorosurfactant comprises a functional group selected from sulphonate, carboxylate, sulphate and phosphate functional groups.

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39. (New) The method of Claim 38 wherein the composition comprises a fluoropolymer with a terminal silane functional group and a fluorosurfactant with a sulphate, sulphonate or phosphate functional group, or combinations thereof.
40. (New) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises one or more agents selected from the group consisting of: surfactants, perfumes, stabilizers, emulsifying agents, polycarboxylate polymers such as polyacrylates, methacrylates or polyurethanes, thickeners, antistatic agents, UV light screening agents, optical brighteners, non-fluorinated silicone compounds and film-forming polymers, alone or in various combinations thereof.
41. (New) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the composition is essentially free of pigment and comprises, by weight:
- 0.01-40% of a fluorinated compound;
 - 0-40% of a fluorosurfactant;
 - 0-30% of a surfactant;
 - 0-30% of a solvent, in particular an alcohol, ether or ester;
 - 0-50% of a non-fluorinated silicone compound;
 - 0-50% of a polycarboxylate polymer; and
 - 20-99.9% of water.
42. (New) The method of Claim 41 wherein the composition further comprises an optical brightener.
43. (New) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the composition is applied by a sprayer, brush, roller, sponge, wipe or a mop.